

OFFICES AT AUCTION.

Let Chronic Office Seekers Bid For Position.

A Plan Similar to That in Effect in Silver City is Discussed as to County Offices.

Last summer I noticed a communication in THE EAGLE which proposed a complete change in the administration of county affairs.

The writer proposed to have five county commissioners into whose hands should be placed the entire business of the county. These commissioners were to be the only elective officers in the county, and they were to fill the various offices with competent men.

The plan proposed was substantially the plan now in effect in this city. Here we elect two members of the city council every year for the term of two years, which arrangement allows two of the members of the council to hold over at each election. All the other officers of the city are chosen by the council. The marshal, treasurer, health officer, clerk, surveyor and officers of the fire department are chosen by the members of the council. The assessor is also chosen by the council, but for this work bids are called for and the lowest responsible bidder is selected for the assessor for the year.

The plan of the correspondent of THE EAGLE for the county was substantially the same. He proposed to have five members of the board of county commissioners, four of whom should hold office for four years and one for two years. Two of the members whose term should be four years and the member whose term should be two years, and who would be the chairman of the board, would be elected at every general election. The three members so elected would be a majority of the board so that, at any election, the political complexion of the board could be changed. These commissioners would be the only elective officers in the county. They would select the various officers of the county and by asking for bids for the services would be able to get the county business done at a very much less expense than it has been done heretofore.

For the last three years the town of Silver City has paid less than one-fourth as much for assessing city property as was paid before the present plan was adopted and about one-fifth as much as the county paid during the same time for assessing the same property.

Besides saving the county a large sum of money annually it is argued in support of this plan that it would prevent the expenditure of large sums of money in elections for the purpose of corrupting voters. It would be of no advantage to

candidates to support any particular man for the office of county commissioner for bids would be received from all alike and the particular office bid for would be given to the lowest responsible bidder.

This plan would undoubtedly save the county many thousands of dollars annually, but there is an objection to the plan. It would put too much power into the hands of the five commissioners to be elected by the voters of the county. Supposing that the five men elected to the office of county commissioners would always be men of undoubted honesty and integrity, there would be no objection to putting the entire business of the county into their hands, but if the board should be inclined to dishonesty, and there have been dishonest commissioners elected in this county in years past, there would be room and opportunity for a great deal of dishonest work. It is true that the voters of the county could put in new commissioners at the end of two years if anything went wrong and it should be discovered by the voters, but the past experience of the taxpayers of this county will remind them that rascality is not always discovered as soon as it is done. It took the taxpayers of this county several years to discover that they had been robbed and robbed most shamefully and some of them are not willing to believe it yet although the evidence is indisputable.

If the taxpayers of the county could be certain of electing honest and capable men to the office of county commissioners I would be heartily in favor of the plan proposed. The saving would be very considerable if the commissioners were the right kind of men, and the experiment might be worth trying anyhow.

DEMOCRAT.

There was a ball at Georgetown on Monday evening.

The Knights of Pythias at Deming will give a grand ball on New Year's eve.

A new postoffice has been established at Ivanhoe. Mail for persons residing at Ivanhoe formerly went to Hanover or Santa Rita.

The Southern Pacific company has made a reduction in the wages of its employees all along the line. The cut amounts to 20 per cent. on all wages.

The shaft on the Deep Down mine is being put down another hundred feet. Four men are at work and they are putting the shaft down at the rate of about a foot a day.

G. N. Petty has disposed of his clothing and furnishing business at Deming to Joe Kelly. Mr. Petty has been a resident of Deming for a number of years and had succeeded in building up a good business.

NEW MEXICO NORMAL SCHOOL.

Report of the Principal to the Board of Regents.

Prof. Selby, principal of the New Mexico normal school, presented the following report to the board of regents at their meeting here last week:

SILVER CITY, N. M., Dec. 20, 1894.—To the Honorable Board of Regents, Normal School of New Mexico. Gentlemen: I have the honor to report an enrollment of 62 pupils in the normal school up to this date. After Christmas vacation this number will be increased to over 70 pupils.

We are rather confined in our present quarters, but we hope to be able to accommodate, temporarily, all applicants for admission, pending the completion of the new building, which will afford all the facilities we need.

The classification is as follows:

Advanced algebra, 7; primary algebra, 19; advanced arithmetic, 8; preparatory arithmetic, 23; geometry, 6; physics, 10; reading, 49; literature, 24; English grammar, 35; general history, 9; history of the United States, 19; English composition, 23; physical geography, 14; political geography, 19; physiology, 6; spelling and pronunciation, 54; Latin, 25.

In all the classes the work has been well performed by the pupils, nearly all of whom are deserving of the highest praise for their zeal and attention to their studies.

The Latin class will have completed, thoroughly, the "First Year in Latin" (Harkness) in twenty weeks, so that the translation of Caesar's Commentaries will be commenced by the middle of January, 1895, when classes in psychology, pedagogy, rhetoric and civil government will also be formed.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. SELBY, Principal.

The C. L. S. C. met at the residence of Mrs. M. A. Fielder last Thursday afternoon.

There are a few miners at work at Georgetown on leases from the Mimbres company, but they are not taking out very much ore.

Preparations are being made at Ivanhoe to start up on a big scale before the end of the winter. A large number of men will be employed as soon as the new smelter is ready for operation.

Silver City chapter, O. E. S. elected the following officers last week: Mrs. O. S. Warren, W. M.; A. H. Harilee, W. P.; May Gaddis, A. M.; Mrs. M. A. Fielder, C.; Mrs. J. J. Kelly, A. C.; Mrs. A. Schutz, Treasurer; Mrs. P. B. Lady, Secretary.

At the meeting of Silver City chapter of Royal Arch Masons last Wednesday evening the following officers were elected for the coming year: Eugene Cosgrove, High Priest; E. M. Young, King; H. S. Gillett, Scribe; M. V. Cox, Captain of the Host; J. W. Carter, Treasurer; P. B. Lady, Secretary; W. F. Lorenz, Tyler.